

Studying the Short Story

tone AND MOOD: Defining Tone, page 1Name [scribble]

Date _____

1. Look up the word *tone* in your glossary. Write the definition here.

attitude expressed by the author

Authors use a wide variety of tones. Decide what tone the author is using in each paragraph below. Choose a term from the box to label each paragraph. (You may want to use more than one term.)

suspicious

humorous

mysterious

hopeless

sarcastic

confiding

frightening

pestering

formal

2. How this book came to be written, nobody knows. Nobody but me, that is—and it took me a long time to decide to tell the strange story. At one time this story could have been dangerous for little Billy and his dad. But now that they're gone, it doesn't matter.

mysterious

3. James Tarlow was six feet tall when he was ten, and some folks say he was five feet long at birth. Everybody in that family was so tall, they just plain took all the ceilings out of their house. The Tarlows had dogs the size of ponies. Nobody ever knew what they did for beds. Maybe they slept with their feet sticking out of the windows.

humorous

4. You wouldn't believe what a rowdy family the Craigs are! It is nothing to see them rolling around on the floor or shouting at the top of their lungs. I'm afraid to take a drink in their house. I shouldn't spread this around, but one time my water glass had a fish in it! Don't tell anyone what I said about the Craigs.

confiding